

# Hungerford hold Blues

**Wycombe Wanderers 1, Hungerford Town 1**

WYCOMBE WANDERERS inability to convert goalscoring chances — something that has troubled them all season — was again in evidence at Loakes Park on Thursday when they could only draw 1-1 with Hellenic League, Premier Division side Hungerford Town in a friendly (writes **Stuart Earp**).

Although Wanderers were never at completely full strength at any time in the game, Hungerford — fifth from the foot of the table with two wins from half a dozen games — should have been no match for the Rothmans Isthmian League champions.

Against Town, the missed chances were relatively unimportant, although the result was slightly embarrassing for the Blues. But there have already been matches this season in the league when more goals should have been scored.

Lack of goals inevitably leads to lower crowds and only about 150-200 people turned out for this encounter.

Hungerford, who meet Southern League club Bath City in the F.A. Cup next Saturday, managed to keep Wanderers in check for most of the first half thanks to some sterling work by their former Coventry City centre half George Curtis. Their front three rarely troubled the home defence but their general work rate and enthusiasm gave Wycombe plenty to think about.

Goalkeeper Roy Orland made a couple of fine saves but with defences dominating the proceedings, there were few clear chances for either side.

For the second half the Blues brought on regulars Keith Searle, Terry Reardon and Howard Kennedy and barring Horseman, Maskell and Holifield, were at full strength. At first it seemed these changes would make all the difference for Wycombe went one up only two minutes after the break. Steve Perrin intercepted a pass near the wing and crossed to the near post where Allen coolly slotted past goalkeeper John Heath.

Kennedy, who was firing shots regularly from various distances, tested Heath in the 55th minute with a long drive but then Hungerford hit back with a breakaway goal. A long ball from the defence found Chris Josey who outpaced the Wycombe rearguard and hammered in a shot which crashed against Cole's body. Mead headed the ball out but it fell just right for Stuart Walker to measure a looping header into the top of the net for a well taken goal.

For the remainder of the half Wanderers battered away at the visitors' goal, forcing no less than 17 corners in the match. The finishing, however, left much to be desired and Hungerford held out for a highly creditable draw.

**WYCOMBE:** L. Cole; P. Griffiths (sub. H. Kennedy 45 mins.), K. Mead, D. Bullock, G. Hand; G. Mackenzie, P. Birdseye, M. Holifield (sub. T. Reardon 45 mins.); D. Evans (sub. K. Searle 45 mins.), F. Allen, S. Perrin.

**HUNGERFORD:** R. Orland (sub. J. Heath 45 mins.); S. Webb, N. Oswald, G. Curtis, R. Bailey; G. Hutchings, N. Ackling, C. Munday; S. Walker, S. Josey, C. Moyle, Sub. C. Betterson, C. Demalle (not used).

**Referee:** J. Atkins (High Wycombe).

**Half-time:** 0-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Allen (47), Hungerford — Walker (58).

**Approximate total attendance:** 200.

## SATURDAY'S FIXTURES

(K.O. 3 p.m.)

F.A. Cup, 2nd Qualifying Round:  
Wycombe Wanderers v. Milton Keynes.

**Athenian League, Division One:**  
Edmonton-Haringey (provisional).

**Spartan League:** Amersham Town v. Chertsey Town, Camberley Town v. Chalfont St. Peter.

**Rothmans Hellenic League, Premier Division:** Burnham v. Abingdon Town.